

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated February 14, 2006.

Applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-20 have been pending in this application. All the claims have been rejected.

Objections to the Specification and the Claims

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, paragraphs [0021], [0022], and [0025] have been amended to correct pointed out deficiencies. Although the Examiner had objected to paragraphs [0023] and [0027], it appears that the Examiner meant paragraphs [0021] and [0025]. Additionally, claims 1-20 have been cancelled and new claims 21-32 have been added. The new claims do not include the deficiencies objected to by the Examiner.

Rejections under §112

Claims 1-14 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being either incomplete or inaccurate.

Claims 6, 8, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As discussed above, rejected claims 1-14 and 17-20 have been cancelled and new claims 21-32 have been added. The new claims are complete, definite, and distinctly claim the subject matter, which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Rejection under §101

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Rejected claims 1-20 have been cancelled, making this rejection moot. All claims are now drawn to statutory, useful methods that enable the independent control of events within user-defined timeframes. The Examiner should note that timed control systems per se are well known in the art and are discussed in the description of the related art section starting on page 1

of the present application.

Rejections under §102 and §103

Claims 1-2, 4-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Figure 1 of the applicant's disclosure, with reference to the pending application, that being U.S. Application No. 2005/0094493, as the applicant has readily admitted that this Figure, that is Figure 1, is representative of Prior Art.

Claims 3 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 1, as applied to claims 1 and 15 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,433 to Rye et al. ("Rye").

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled, making this rejection moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

In accordance with new independent claims 21, 27, and 28, the present invention is directed to a method of setting sequential timeframes, as in claims 21 and 27, and to a method of controlling occurrence of at least one scheduled event, as in claims 28. The claimed methods relate to methods of event control systems that schedule events to repeat each day of the week. For example, if an air-conditioner is set to be switched on at 6 A.M., then every day at 6 A.M. the air-conditioner will be switched on. Usually, it is desired that on some days the scheduled events take place at different times. Thus, days may be grouped into timeframes, with days that are part of the same timeframe having event settings that are different from the events settings in a different timeframe. While it is beneficial to switch the air-conditioner on at 6 A.M. during the weekdays, a different schedule may be required during the weekend.

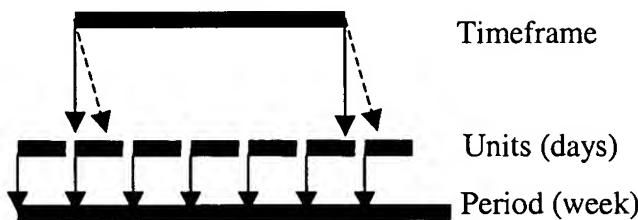
A common event control system schedules events to take place over a period of time, e.g., a week, that is continually repeated. The week is separated into equal units of fixed duration, e.g., 24-hour days. Commonly, the days are grouped into variable length timeframes, e.g., 5 weekdays and 2 weekend days.

Sometimes, there arises a need to shift the timeframes. That maybe caused by a need to account for a holiday. Reprogramming or rescheduling events to achieve special scheduling needs, is very time consuming and can cause erroneous entries. The present application provides a solution to such a problem.

In existing event control systems, frames start from the start of the first day in the frame.

(See Figure 1). The solution, recited in claims 21, 27, and 28, is to shift the timeframes while maintaining their durations.

The novelty of the claimed invention lies in that it teaches enabling time shifting without re-scheduling events. The invention teaches resetting the timeframes to start at different times than is conventional. To this end, claim 28 recites “shifting the timeframe start time of a selected timeframe to a new time within a selected unit that is not a unit start time, wherein the unit start time of each of the plurality of units within the period remains the same and the duration of each timeframe remains the same.” This teaches changing the start time of a timeframe while maintaining other parameters.



(Solid arrows indicate INITIAL start time. Dotted arrows indicate the SHIFTED start time.)

Additionally, claim 21 recites “setting each timeframe to include a portion of a time unit that is less than a complete time unit” and claim 27 recites “partitioning the time units into time sub units having time sub unit start and end times; and setting each timeframe to include a plurality of time sub units, wherein the timeframe start time is shifted to be the same as the time sub unit start time of the first time unit in the timeframe and the total time in each respective timeframe remains the same.” This teaches changing the start time of a timeframe while maintaining other parameters by using time sub units that are less than 24 hours long.

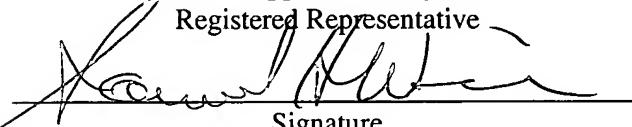
The prior art references presented by the Examiner to reject now cancelled claims 1-20 do not teach or suggest the above-discussed limitations.

Thus, Applicants’ independent claims 21, 27, and 28 are patentably distinct from the prior art Figure 1 of the present application, Rye, or their combination. Claims 22-26, and 29-32 depend directly or indirectly from the above discussed independent claims and are, therefore, allowable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the respective independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on August 14, 2006:

Samuel H. Weiner

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel H. Weiner
Registration No.: 18,510
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

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Date of Signature
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